



November 2001

The Bay Leaf

California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter • Alameda & Contra Costa Counties

Calendar of Events

Saturday, November 3
Native Plant Restoration Team

♦ **Algerian ivy bash** (p. 4)

November 6, 13, 20, 27 (Tuesdays)

♦ **Plant Sale work sessions**, 9 a.m.-noon
Merritt College, Landscape Horticulture Area (p. 2)

November 5, 12, 19, 26 (Fridays)

♦ **Native Here Nursery** open 9-12 (p. 3)

November 6, 13, 20, 27 (Saturdays)

♦ **Native Here Nursery** open 10-1

Wednesday, November 7

♦ **Board of Directors' meeting** home of Phoebe Watts,

1419 Grant St., Berkeley, 7:30 p.m.
All members welcome.

Wednesday, November 12

♦ **Deadline for December Bay Leaf**

Send items to Joe Willingham.

Wednesday, November 28

♦ **Membership meeting** (see below)

Saturday, December 1

Native Plant Restoration Team

♦ **Mayten mayhem in Wildcat Canyon** (p. 4)

Membership Meeting

Wednesday, November 28, 2001 7:30 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Tom Carlson

Medicinal Plants of California

Many people know that the active ingredient in aspirin was originally derived from willow bark and that the chemotherapeutic drug taxol was first discovered in the bark of the Pacific yew, but relatively few realize the extensive medicinal properties of the California flora. Indigenous people in California were well acquainted with these attributes of native plants and developed a sophisticated and extensive pharmacopoeia. Their knowledge included not only a number of alternate plant remedies for each ailment, but also the best collection times, extraction techniques, and dosing regimens for optimizing efficacy of these remedies. Dr. Tom Carlson, who has conducted extensive ethnobotanical research both in California and around the world, will present slides and stories of the medicinal properties of California plants and their use by indigenous Californians, both historically and in the present.

Dr. Carlson, Adjunct Professor of Integrative Biology at U.C. Berkeley and Research Associate at the University and Jepson Herbaria, is a physician and medical ethnobotanist. He travels extensively within California and

worldwide as a researcher and teacher. He also directs the HEBE Program (Health, Ecology, Biodiversity, and Ethnobiology), a center for cross-disciplinary research and education in ethnobiology, ecology, evolution, and systematics that aims to improve understanding of the interrelationships between biodiversity, ethnolinguistic diversity, ecosystem health, medical ecology, and human health. In addition, he is a talented and accomplished photographer.

The meeting will take place in the Conference Center of the University of California Botanical Garden on Centennial Drive, east of Memorial Stadium, above the main campus of the University of California in Berkeley. The Garden gate will open at 7:00 p.m. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. CNPS books and other publications will be on display and available for purchase. Please contact Sue Rosenthal, 510-496-6016, if you have any questions.

Upcoming Programs:

December 2001: No meeting (happy holidays!)

January 23, 2002: Carol Witham, "Vernal Pools and Conservation Aspects of the U.C. Merced Issue"

President's Message

At the state board meeting in September I began to see the fruits of nearly two years' worth of CNPS strategic planning, governance restructuring, and the general headaches that such efforts entail. Expect plenty of bugs that still need to be worked out, some possibly major, but I for one believe that our organization's emerging new structure is a major step in the right direction. My involvement with CNPS prior to the strategic planning and restructuring phase (chair of the Rare Plant Scientific Advisory Committee) made me aware that CNPS had long outgrown its previous organizational structure. I was therefore pleased to witness how much positive change was already evident at the Stanford state board meeting in September, with new committees coalescing and detailed evaluations of how newly clarified goals were to be met.

Much of the board meeting was nevertheless needed to come to grips with the implementation of Step One: the election of a board of directors (president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and six additional directors) under the newly approved state by-laws. In the process, several complications became evident that need smoothing out in the next round. It was also clear that chapter by-laws will probably need to be rewritten, so that delegates to the Chapter Council can be determined early enough to allow them to apply for leadership positions on the coming year's council, including *ex officio* representation on the board of directors. It will be exciting to see how the newly constituted Chapter Council functions next year, freed from the administrative responsibilities that are the province of the board.

Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning were devoted to the meat of the new CNPS, with reorganized and redefined programs getting down to business. I caught only the beginning of the Conservation Program discussion, but I was impressed with how well strategic planning was being implemented, with a careful assessment of the numerous goals (so many battles to fight) versus available resources (primarily people). I then joined a discussion of an expanded Plant Science Program, spearheaded by Roy Woodward. In addition to rare plant and vegetation committees, there emerged a general plant science steering committee, a local floras committee (I plan to be active here), and a photography committee promoted by John Game. Particularly encouraging, both in these discussions and throughout the weekend, was the oft-repeated goal of increased coordination between state level and chapter level activities, a previous weakness that was loudly noted during the reorganization period. CNPS has a long way to go before the new structure and newly defined programs are completely implemented. I'm sure we will all find at least something to disagree with. I invite you all to take an active part; what doesn't work can always be changed, and what does work can always use

more support from you, the general membership who remain the heart of what CNPS is, does, and can accomplish.

Barbara Ertter

Plant Sale



Our 35th annual sale of native plants is now history. We earned funds to support our work in conservation, education, habitat protection and restoration, scholarships, publications, and plant surveys. The thanks of several customers attest that we really provide a service to our community by making native plants—some of them hard to find elsewhere—available.

Shirley McPheeters and her loyal band of Tuesday volunteers who work year-round are the foundation of the sale, and they are supported by those who contribute computer skills, the September helpers who whip the sale site into shape, the sale-weekend workers at many stations, and our supportive, appreciative customers. Poster artist Lee McCafree and Ed Peters, who constructed a handsome and much-needed shade structure at the sale site, deserve special thanks.

Work sessions on Tuesdays have resumed, and plants remaining from the sale will be sold through January (on Tuesday mornings).

This month, rain or shine: Tuesdays, Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27, 9 a.m.-noon (mornings only for a while).

Merritt College, Landscape Horticulture area.

Come when you can and become better acquainted with the plants as you make cuttings or transplant. Most of the volunteers are experienced gardeners who like to visit interesting natural areas, so the conversations around the worktables are educational and enjoyable. Come join in.

Bring your lunch if you can stay, and two quarters for the parking permit machine at the gate.

Phoebe Watts (510) 525-6614



"Verifiable knowledge makes its way slowly, and only under cultivation, but fable has burrs and feet and claws and wings and an indestructible sheath like weed-seed, and can be carried almost anywhere and take root without benefit of soil or water."

Wallace Stegner *Beyond the Hundredth Meridian*

Sudden Oak Death Found in Alameda County

Last month, Alameda County became the tenth California county known to be infested with the pathogen that causes Sudden Oak Death. University of California researchers confirmed the disease in bay trees and dead and dying coast live oaks along rural Crow Canyon Road near Castro Valley. Sudden Oak Death has killed tens of thousands of oak trees mainly in coastal counties from Monterey to Mendocino.

The pathogen that causes Sudden Oak Death has been identified as a new species of *Phytophthora*, a fungus-like brown alga. The origin of the Sudden Oak Death pathogen, *Phytophthora ramorum*, is not yet known, but its closest relative, *Phytophthora lateralis*, is responsible for massive die-off of Port Orford cedars in the Pacific Northwest.

While some trees are killed outright by *Phytophthora ramorum* (often the case with tan oaks), others are weakened and become susceptible to infestation by bark beetles and other secondary pathogens. In some cases, these more rapidly destructive secondary pathogens may be the immediate cause of death. Trees infected with *P. ramorum* may survive for a few years before they succumb, but the last stages of browning and death occur rapidly, giving the disease its name. There is currently no known cure for Sudden Oak Death.

Until recently, Sudden Oak Death seemed to be restricted to areas with strong coastal influence and year-round moisture from fog, but confirmations of the disease in Castro Valley and Solano County now suggest that the pathogen can survive and infect plants in drier areas. The location in Solano County is approximately 50 miles from the coast and appears to be the point at which the fog commonly stops. Other counties with confirmed occurrences of the disease are Marin (the first discovery of the disease in California was in Mill Valley in 1995), Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Sonoma. The northernmost location in California is on Hwy 128 near Boonville in Mendocino County, but the disease has also been found in southwest Oregon near Brookings.

The list of native California plant species and genera affected by the pathogen continues to grow and now includes *Acer macrophyllum* (big-leaf maple), *Aesculus californica* (California buckeye), *Arctostaphylos manzanita* (common manzanita), *Arbutus menziesii* (madrone), *Heteromeles arbutifolia* (toyon), *Lithocarpus densiflorus* (tan oak), *Lonicera* (honeysuckle), *Quercus agrifolia* (coast live oak), *Quercus kelloggii* (California black oak), *Quercus parvula* var. *shrevei* (Shreve oak), *Rhododendron macrophyllum* (California rose-bay), *Rhododendron occidentale* (western azalea), *Umbellularia californica* (California bay laurel), and *Vaccinium ovatum* (evergreen huckleberry). The Sudden Oak Death pathogen has also been found in cultivated rhododendrons and viburnums in

Germany and The Netherlands. Although the disease kills some species, other species may survive with leaf, twig, or stem damage or dieback. Researchers have observed that in some cases the pathogen can reproduce rapidly on leaf surfaces of host plants that are not killed. These hosts may allow rapid build-up of *Phytophthora* spores and therefore serve as sources of infection.

Because the means by which the disease spreads is not yet understood, the state of California has placed emergency restrictions on the movement of plants and plant products out of infested counties. These restrictions prohibit the export of oak trees, cuttings, mulch, bark chips, firewood, or other unprocessed oak products from affected counties. Similar restrictions apply to all other plant species affected by the disease, including nursery stock.

As individuals, there are steps we can take to avoid spreading the disease. Since *Phytophthora* can be transmitted through soil as well as plant material, people visiting affected areas are asked to do the following:

While in infested areas:

- Park your vehicle only in designated parking areas;
- Stay on established trails – respect trail closures;
- Do not collect wood, plants, plant parts, or soil;
- Avoid muddy areas.

Before going to uninfested areas:

- Clean soil and mud off shoes, mountain bikes, horses' hooves, and pets' paws;
- Wash mud or soil off tires, wheel wells, and the undercarriage of your vehicle.

For more information about Sudden Oak Death and ongoing research and monitoring efforts, visit the web site of the California Oak Mortality Task Force at www.suddenoakdeath.org. If you are concerned that a tree in your area may be infected, contact your county agricultural advisor (listed in the county government offices section of the phone book) or report it through the Task Force web site.

Sue Rosenthal

Native Here Nursery

November 5, 12, 19, 26, Fridays. Native Here Nursery open 9-noon.

November 6, 13, 20, 27. Saturdays. Native Here Nursery open 10-1.

Come in and purchase plants for fall planting. We have a nice selection of free seedlings-madrone from El Sobrante, sycamores from Sunol, oaks from a variety of locations. Shrubs, perennials, and grasses continue to be offered. Native Here is located at 101 Golf Course Drive, Tilden Park (across from Tilden Park Golf Course). It is open Fridays from 9 to noon and Saturdays 10 to 1. Volunteers

are always welcome to help with a variety of tasks. Shoppers are welcome, too, of course. Gift certificates are available. *A great idea for holiday giving.* On a sad note, the nursery was the target of burglaries in August and September. Tools belonging to the East Bay Chapter and some personal tools were stolen. The forestry tools used by the restoration team will no longer be stored at the nursery. It is very frustrating to have the products of our volunteer efforts stolen and destroyed. It took hours to repair the damage of the break-ins, not to mention the time and expense involved in filing police and insurance reports and replacing needed items. Please be on the lookout for tools marked EBCNPS or NPRT. If you notice someone using such tools please alert the East Bay Regional Park Police, 510/538-7743. Refer to case #01910014.

Charli Danielsen

Membership News

Thank you to Dorothy Franz who helped out at our CNPS table at the Palomares Watershed Festival in Castro Valley. About 250 families live in this long established outpost of civilization (Palomares School was founded in 1861). There is an ongoing creek restoration project run by one of the teachers and lots of interest in native plants. Ken Peek displayed tools, string and baskets that he made from native plants using local Ohlone Native American methods. Especially memorable was the soap plant brush that looked better than anything one can buy today.

Also, thanks to all who helped out at the membership table during our fabulous Plant Sale. We signed up eight new members and passed out lots of membership forms and information.

Information wanted: We would like to have a CNPS table at all the environmental education events in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. If you hear of an event, please contact me. We are interested in all areas within our two Counties. We need more members from Antioch, Hercules and many other places to help us represent our Native Plants in development issues.

Help wanted: We need more people to help us at our table during these events. Most events are family oriented, and it is easy for children to come along and have a fun day.

Delia Taylor (510) 527-3912 deliataylor@mac.com

Native Plant Restoration Team

Fall is in the air. Join us for a joint work party with SPAWNERS along San Pablo Creek in El Sobrante. We will be planting more Natives in our Demonstration Garden and continue the never ending pulling of Algerian Ivy. Meet directly at the site on Nov. 3, at 10:00 am. The El Sobrante Library is located on Appian Way at the intersection

with San Pablo Dam Road. Take the El Sorante/Dam Road exit off I-80, go east on the Dam Road for about 2 miles. Turn left onto Appian Way (just past the Ace Hardware Store on your left), then immediately left onto Garden Lane and left into the library parking lot. We have some tools and gloves to lend but you are encouraged to bring along a favorite garden tool. Call Gudrun Kleist (510-222-2320) for more information. Thanks to Gudrun for organizing.

Sat., Dec. 1: Mayten mayhem in Wildcat Canyon. We will work on EBRPD land at the end of Terrace Drive in El Cerrito, above Wildcat Canyon. Tasks will include flagging or grubbing out the smaller plants east of the grassy area at the end of Terrace Drive, cutting paths through dense brush to get to the larger plants below the houses on Leneve Place, clearing around the bases of the medium-to-large plants to facilitate future cutting and herbicide application, and mapping the population. There is also French broom to pull, and other tasks. Expect moderate poison oak exposure; we can provide Tyvek suits for those who need them. Meet on site, Sat. Dec. 1, at 10 a.m. Take Moeser up from the El Cerrito flats, cross Arlington, the name changes to Terrace. Curve left then right. Meet at the dead end of Terrace (cross street Leneve Place and/or Kensington Road).

Noah Booker

Activities of Others

Courses offered by the *Friends* of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden

To register, contact Ron Clendenen at 925-631-6614 or rclendenen@juno.com.

Sudden Oak Death, A New Disease Threatening California's Oaks

In 1995, a mysterious oak-killing disease was discovered in Marin County. Since then, it has been identified in ten central California counties (now including Alameda County), where it has killed tens of thousands of coast live oaks, tan oaks, and California black oaks. The pathogen believed to cause the disease, a previously unknown species of the fungus-like *Phytophthora*, also has been found on native Shreve's oaks, madrones, bay laurels, buckeyes, rhododendrons, big-leaf maples, honeysuckles, and evergreen huckleberries. In this slide lecture, Dr. Matteo Garbelotto, a leading researcher on Sudden Oak Death, will present the latest information on the distribution and diagnosis of the disease, the fascinating story of isolating and identifying the causative agent, and current ideas on its management.

Saturday, November 10, 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden Visitor Center. Fee: \$15 *Friends* members/\$20 nonmembers. All proceeds benefit Sudden

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Board of Directors

Elected Officers

President:

Barbara Erter, 1859 Catalina Ave., Berkeley 94707, h/526-4592, w/643-0600

Vice President, Administration:

Tony Morosco, 2329 7th St., Berkeley 94710, 549-2238, w/642-8468

Treasurer:

Holly Forbes, 7128 Blake St., El Cerrito 94530, 234-2913, w/643-8040

Secretaries:

Recording:

Michele Lee, 2923 Sheldon Dr., Richmond 94803, 243-1265

Corresponding:

Joanne Kerbavaz, Calif. State Parks, 250 Executive Park Blvd., Suite 4900, San Francisco 94134, w/415-330-6323

Advisors

Members at large:

John Game, 1155 Spruce St., Berkeley 94707, 527-7855

Jim Sharp, 2663 LeConte Ave., Berkeley 94709, 644-9344

Joe Willingham, 2512 Etna St., Berkeley 94704, 841-4681

Bay Leaf Editors

Brett Boltz, 2210 Spaulding Ave., Berkeley 94703, h/549-3327, w/643-0448, bboltz@uclink2.berkeley.edu

Joe Willingham, 2512 Etna St., Berkeley 94704, 841-4681, pepe@dnai.com

Recorded Chapter Information: 464-4977

CNPS Home Page: <http://www.cnps.org>

East Bay Chapter CNPS Home Page:
<http://www.ebcnps.org>

Chapter CNPS-EB-Alerts E-mail List:

Find out more; email to listserv@usobi.org with:

INFO CNPS-EB Alerts

All area codes are 510 unless noted

Committee Coordinators

Bay Leaf Mailing:

Holly Forbes, 7128 Blake St., El Cerrito 94530, 234-2913, w/643-8040

Bryophytes:

Dan Norris, 802 Lexington Ave., El Cerrito 94530, 435-2004

email norris_daniel@hotmail.com

Conservation:

Steve Asztalos, 839 York St., Oakland, asztalos1@llnl.gov

Plant Communities:

Susan Bainbridge, 2408 Parker St., Berkeley 94704, 548-2918

Rare Plants:

Brad Olson, 4442 Arcadia Ave., Oakland 94602, 482-0794

Unusual Plants:

Dianne Lake, 1050 Bayview Farm Rd. #121, Pinole 94564, 741-8066

Donations:

Vacant

Education:

Elly Bade, 2699 Shasta Rd., Berkeley 94708, 644-1656

Field Trips:

Janet Gawthrop, 360 Monte Vista Ave. #214, Oakland 94610, 654-3066

Hospitality:

Irene Wilkinson, 440 Camino Sobrante, Orinda 94563, 925-254-3675

Legislation:

Roy Buck, 848-4169, email roybuck@msn.com

Membership:

Delia Taylor, 1851 Catalina Ave., Berkeley 94707, 527-3912

Native Here Nursery:

Charli Daniels, 101 Golf Course Dr., Berkeley 94708, 549-0211, email cwd@wli.net

Native Plant Restoration Team:

Noah Booker, 6366 Valley View Rd., Oakland 94611, h/339-1588, w/840-9367, email casartunda@aol.com

Posters:

Heather Koshinsky, 2033 Carquinez Ave., El Cerrito 94530, w/522-8180

Plant Sale:

Shirley McPheeters, 104 Ivy Dr., Orinda 94563, 925-376-4095

Phoebe Watts, 1419 Grant St., Berkeley 94703, 525-6614

Plant Sale Publicity:

Elaine Jackson, 3311 Estudillo St., Martinez 94553, 925-372-0687

Programs:

Sue Rosenthal, P.O. Box 20489, Oakland 94620, 496-6016, email rosacalifornia@earthlink.net

EBRP Botanic Garden Liaison:

Sue Rosenthal, P.O. Box 20489, Oakland 94620, 496-6016

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

I wish to affiliate with:

___ East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

___ Other _____

Membership category:

___ Student, Retired, Limited income, \$20

___ Individual, Library, \$35

___ Household, Family, or Group, \$45

___ Supporting, \$75

___ Plant lover, \$100

___ Benefactor, \$500

___ Life, \$1000

Mail application and check to: California Native Plant Society, 1722 J St., Suite 17, Sacramento CA 95814

Oak Death research and the Regional Parks Botanic Garden.

Growing Native Ferns from Spores

Learn the fascinating technique of growing beautiful ferns from nearly microscopic spores with Martin Grantham, Greenhouse Manager for San Francisco State University and creator of the xeriphytic fern display at the U.C. Botanical Garden. Through a slide-lecture and hands-on demonstration, you'll get an overview of the entire process: collecting, storing, and sowing spores; preparing media; identifying fern growth stages; and dividing and potting up sporelings. You'll take home two sowings and one division. Spores will be available, but participants may also bring their own. California natives will be emphasized.

Sunday, November 18, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden Visitor Center. Fee: \$40 *Friends* members/\$45 nonmembers.

The Wayne Roderick Lectures Winter 2001- 2002

At the Regional Parks Botanic Garden
Wildcat Canyon Road and South Park Drive (South Park Drive is closed Nov.-March)
in Tilden Park, Berkeley
(510) 841-8732 E-mail Address: Bgarden@ebparks.org
www.nativeplants.org

Saturday mornings 10:30-noon
No charge

November lectures (call or email for December-February schedule)

- Nov. 3 Exploring the Donner Sierra (Steve Edwards)
Nov. 10 A photo safari in Washington, Idaho, and Montana (Bob Case)
Nov. 17 John Muir's 1873 botanical exploration of the Tuolumne River Canyon (Bonnie Gisel)
Nov. 24 An overview of the geology of California (Doris Sloan)

Friends of Five Creeks

Join Friends of Five Creeks in removing blackberries, ivy, and other invasives from lower Cerrito Creek, 10 am Saturday, November 10 and December 8. Meet at Creekside Park (the south end of Belmont Street) in El Cerrito. Bring work gloves and clippers, shovels, or mattocks if you have them.

Information at 510 848 9358, f5creeks@aol.com, or www.fivecreeks.org.



"Weaving together the large and small fragments of natural habitat on both public and private lands is the only way to fully protect America's natural heritage. Even an acre of old timber, a remnant wetland, or an isolated spring often harbors hundreds of species, including many of threatened status. By inventing new economic incentives for conserving these special places on private lands, the spirit of wilderness can be taken literally to the grassroots and made more fully part of the national passion. Recognition and reward can engage the attention and win the support of landowners and local communities. These are the practical steps we must take to join our daily lives more fully with the natural world."

E.O. Wilson, *The Diversity of Life*

California Native Plant Society
East Bay Chapter
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Berkeley CA 94705

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